

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 OMB-01 FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /112 W

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R 301203Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0192

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E. O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EGEN, ENRG

SUBJ: FERTILIZER SHORTAGE IN THAILAND

REF : A. STATE 5109, B. BANGKOK 0402, C. BANGKOK 0594

1. LOCATION AND PURCHASE OF FERTILIZERS FOR PLANTING OF SECOND RICE CROP IN PARTICULAR REMAINS SUBJECT OF MAJOR CONCERN TO RTG OFFICIALS. AS STATED REFTEL B, I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THAILAND TO MAINTAIN ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION DURING THIS PERIOD OF OIL CRISIS THAT WILL RESULT IN SHARPLY INCREASED COSTS AND OF WORLD FOOD STRINGENCY. I ALSO REGARD IT AS HIGHLY IMPORTANT FOR THE U.S. DURING THIS PERIOD OF MOUNTING CRITICISM OF OUR PRESENCE HERE TO DEMONSTRATE A SYMPATHETIC CONCERN FOR DEVELOPMENTS THAT THREATEN SERIOUS HARM TO THE THAI NATION BUT ARE BEYOND ITS CONTROL, BY MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TRY TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS MAY BE FEASIBLE TO ENABLE THAILAND TO PURCHASE IN THE U.S. FROM ITS OWN FUNDS SUFFICIENT FERTILIZERS TO MEET AT LEAST MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS. THE MARKEDLY GREATER SEVERITY OF THE OIL CRISIS IN JAPAN RULES OUT THAT SOURCE OF SUPPLY BEYOND EXISTING CONTRACTS. THIS IN ESSENCE WAS REPLY OF PM TANAKA WHEN RTG OFFICIALS RAISED SUBJECT OF SUPPLY WITH HIM.

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2. ACCORING TO MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL, THAILAND

NORMALLY IMPORTS ABOUT 400,000 TONS OF FERTILIZER ANNUALLY, WITH JAPAN AS THE TRADITIONAL MAJOR SOURCE. THIS YEAR, BECAUSE OF WORLD WIDE FERTILIZER SHORTAGE THAT HAS DEVELOPED, THAILAND IS SEEKING FROM THE U.S. AT LEAST 100,000 TONS BUT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATIVE IF IT COULD OBTAIN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE AT LEAST 50,000 TONS. RTG PLANS TO SUBSIDIZE COST TO FARMER AS WELL AS TO ASSURE EXPEDITIOUS DISTRIBUTION AS SOON AS FERTILIZER ARRIVES BANGKOK.

3. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL A AS FOLLOWS:

A. SPECIFIC TYPES OF FERTILIZERS BEING SOUGHT ARE MIXED FERTILIZER 16-20-0. TRADITIONAL IMPORTS HAVE ALSO

INCLUDED NITROGEN (AMMONIUM SULFATE),; PHOSPHATES (AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE); POTASH (POTASSIC SODIUM NITRATE).

B. PRINCIPAL IMPORTER WOULD BE COOPERATIVE LEAGUE OF THAILAND.

C. TIME PERIOD FOR SHIPMENT IS ASAP BECAUSE THE IMPORTANT MONTHS FOR PLANTING SECOND RICE CROP AND SOYBEANS ARE FEBRUARY-APRIL.

D. TO TEST AVAILABILITY OF FERTILIZER IN U.S. MARKET, EMBASSY IN REFTEL C ON JANUARY 10 SENT "PRIVATE TRADE OPPORTUNITY" TO USDOC FOR PURCHASE OF 50,000 TONS OF NPK FORMULA 16-20-0, AND RECOMMENDED THAT TO BE GIVEN SPECIAL HANDLING. NO REPLY RECEIVED AS OF JANUARY 30 BY BUYER.

E. JAPAN HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL SUPPLIER. CURRENT ABILITY TO DELIVER LIMITED TO EXISTING CONTRACTS, AS STATED ABOVE.

F. INFORMATION CONTAINED PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTEL A PASSED TO COMMERCE MINISTRY. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF U.S. FERTILIZER EXPORTERS FURNISHED SEMI-GOVERNMENT COOPERATIVE LEAGUE, AS INDICATED PARAGRAPH B.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUPPLIES, FERTILIZERS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** EGEN, ENRG, TH  
**To:** STATE  
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